

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23782 171644Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /070 W
-----068870 180033Z /72

R 171633Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7199
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
FAA BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR FR US UK
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 23260

1. IT WAS INDICATED IN THE COLEMAN DECISION THAT AFTER A SIXTEEN-MONTH PROVISIONAL TRIAL PERIOD, THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION WOULD MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO THE CONTINUATION OF CONCORDE LANDING RIGHTS AT DULLES (AS WELL AS AT JFK). IN THE CASE OF DULLES, THE TRIAL PERIOD CONCLUDES ON SEPTEMBER 24. BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND DOT SECRETARY ADAMS HAVE STATED PUBLICLY THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION ENDORSES THE COLEMAN DECISION.

2. THE FRENCH HAVE INDICATED TO US (REFTEL) THE SERIOUS CONCERN OF THE FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS ABOUT WHETHER THE USG INTENDS TO MAKE SUCH A SPECIFIC DETERMINATION. THE FRENCH AND BRITISH WILL DOUBTLESS KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING, IF IN AN OFFICIAL DEMARCHE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 23782 171644Z

THEY REVEAL TO US THE FALLBACK POSITION ALREADY DESCRIBED TO US IN REFTEL. I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT WHATEVER THE FRENCH AND BRITISH MAY SAY AT PRESENT ABOUT ACCEPTING SOME SORT OF PUBLIC STATEMENT IN LIEU OF A DEFINITIVE DECISION ON CONTINUING CONCORDE SERVICE, THE FACT IS THAT SHOULD THE USG FAIL TO MAKE SUCH A DEFINITIVE DECISION AT THE

END OF THE TEST PERIOD, WE WOULD HAVE TO EXPECT OUR FRENCH CRITICS, AT LEAST, TO HAVE A FIELD DAY. THE FRENCH MEDIA, THE LEFT (ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNISTS) AND THE RPR COULD BE COUNTED ON TO USE A USG FAILURE TO CARRY OUT ITS STATED INTENTION AS EVIDENCE OF US PERFDY AND DETERMINATION TO DO THE CONCORDE IN. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, I DOUBT THAT THE GOF WOULD REMAIN SILENT, OR WOULD BE SO FOOLISH AS TO REVEAL THAT IT HAD TOLD US BEFOREHAND THAT IT WOULD SETTLE FOR LESS THAN DEFINITIVE AUTHORIZATION.

3. I REALIZE THAT THIS ISSUE, INVOLVING INTENSE FRENCH POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES, ALSO INVOLVES EQUALLY SENSITIVE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN NEW YORK. THAT BEING SAID, HOWEVER, THE QUESTION OF US CREDIBILITY IS INEXTRICABLY PRESENT AND SHOULD BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED, IF ANY CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO PUTTING OFF A CONCORDE DECISION.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, LANDING RIGHTS, CONCORDE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: EAIR, FR, US, UK
To: STATE
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